



USDA/NASS NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

SPECIAL SURVEY RESULTS APRIL QUARTERLY LABOR

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MAY 2006 EXCLUSIVELY FOR SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Dear Respondent:

This issue of the **USDA/NASS NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE SPECIAL SURVEY RESULTS** covers the results of the Quarterly Farm Labor Survey for the week of April 9-15, 2006. This is being sent exclusively to those of you who responded to our request for data. The information you provided made these published estimates possible. Thank you for your cooperation and the time spent completing the surveys.

Sincerely,

Dwaine C. Nelson
Director

NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA: There were 17,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 6 percent from last April. Average hours worked by all hired workers increased to 48.7 hours a week compared to 44.8 hours last year. Wage rates for field workers were up from last April, at \$8.14 an hour, an increase of 19 cents. Livestock worker wages dropped to \$9.13, compared to \$9.40 an hour in April 2005. Overall, average wage rates for all hired agricultural workers held steady at \$9.17 an hour, down 1 cent from this time last year.

UNITED STATES: There were 956,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 718,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 238,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.79 per hour during the April 2006 reference week, up 44 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.96 per hour, up 40 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.30 per hour compared with \$9.14 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.07 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 2 percent from a year ago.

**Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers,
Selected Regions and U.S., April 05-06 ^{1/}**

	Mountain II ^{2/}		Mountain III ^{3/}		Southern Plains ^{4/}		United States ^{5/}	
	Apr 10-16 2005	Apr 9-15 2006	Apr 10-16 2005	Apr 9-15 2006	Apr 10-16 2005	Apr 9-15 2006	Apr 10-16 2005	Apr 9-15 2006
Workers on Farms	-----Thousands-----							
All Hired Workers	20	19	18	17	55	55	753	718
Hours Worked	-----Hours Per Week-----							
All Hired Workers	41.6	50.6	44.8	48.7	42.3	39.2	39.9	40.8
Wages By Work	-----Dollars Per Hour-----							
Field	7.70	8.39	7.95	8.14	8.13	8.24	8.56	8.96
Livestock	8.41	8.98	9.40	9.13	9.15	9.06	9.14	9.30
Field & Livestock	8.02	8.65	8.51	8.60	8.53	8.64	8.72	9.07
All Workers	8.50	9.08	9.18	9.17	9.28	9.37	9.35	9.79

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers. ^{2/} Mountain Region II consists of CO, NV & UT. ^{3/} Mountain Region III consists of AZ & NM. ^{4/} Southern Plains region consists of OK & TX. ^{5/} Excludes AK.